

LAKE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Updated July 2014 – William Baker

Water(s): McDowell Lake (Stevens Co.)

Location: McDowell Lake is located about 11.5 miles southeast of Colville, WA.

	Size:	Max. Depth:	Volume:
McDowell Lake	69 acres	29 ft	690 acre feet

Water Source: Diversion from North Fork Bear Creek.

Outflow: Yes. Outflow to swamp and eventually to Little Pend Oreille River.

Management History:

McDowell Lake is located on the Little Pend Oreille National Wildlife Refuge. Trout stocking began in 1972 and has been planted exclusively with rainbow trout since that time. The lake has been managed under fly-fishing only regulations since 1974 and became a catch-and-release fishery in 1985.

McDowell Lake has been treated with rotenone four times (1973, 1984, 1988, 2006). Previous treatments all targeted tench. The lake is proposed to be treated in 2014 to control the tench population which is limiting trout growth and recruitment through interspecific competition. In addition, WDFW has received anecdotal reports of pumpkinseed sunfish in the lake, which would also limit trout growth and recruitment.

T&E Flora and Fauna: Professionals from many resource agencies have visited this site countless times during the last 50 years. No known report exists of any threatened or endangered species habitually found in or near this lake. Occasional visits from both bald and golden eagles occur, although no nests of these two species are known to occur near the lake. Protected species of waterfowl and other birds are frequently found here at times, as well.

Current Management Objectives:

McDowell Lake is a lowland lakes opener (4th Saturday in April to October 31), fly-fishing only, catch-and-release trout fishery. The lake is managed to produce high catch rates of carryover and fry-plant rainbow trout.

Stocking Objectives following lake rehabilitation:

Lake	Species	Number of Fish Stocked			Planting Month
		Total	/Acre	/Pound	
Year 1	Rainbow	3000	43	2.5	April
	Rainbow	2000	29	100	May
Year 2	Rainbow	1500	22	100	May
Year 3	Rainbow	1500	22	100	May
Year 4	Rainbow	1500	22	100	May
Year 5	Rainbow	1500	22	100	May
Year 6	Rainbow	1500	22	100	May

Management Strategy:

- A. Plant rainbow trout catchables (2.5 fpp) during spring 2015. Do not use catchables in this fishery again until fry recruitment reduces substantially from competition with unwanted fish species. Plant rainbow trout spring fry (100 fpp) annually to maintain fishery.
- B. Check yearling growth; should be ~11 inches on May 1st of each spring. Adjust stocking density as necessary to achieve targeted trout growth.
- C. Monitor annually with Opening Day creel and gill netting, and periodically with electrofishing.
- D. Control undesirable species with rotenone when trout survival is inadequate to produce an acceptable fishery.